

**LEGISLATIVE SERVICES AGENCY
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FISCAL IMPACT STATEMENT

LS 6131

BILL NUMBER: SB 14

NOTE PREPARED: Apr 2, 2009

BILL AMENDED: Mar 30, 2009

SUBJECT: Accessibility of Voting Locations.

FIRST AUTHOR: Sen. Miller

FIRST SPONSOR: Rep. Battles

BILL STATUS: 2nd Reading - 2nd House

FUNDS AFFECTED: **GENERAL**
 DEDICATED
 FEDERAL

IMPACT: Local

Summary of Legislation: (Amended) *Accessibility Requirements*- The bill requires that all locations where a voter is entitled to cast in person an absentee ballot before election day meet the same accessibility requirements that apply to a polling place for a precinct. The bill provides that if the office of the circuit court clerk (OCCC) is unable to comply with this requirement even by implementing temporary measures, the OCCC is not required to comply with this requirement before January 1, 2019.

Assistance of Certain Voters- The bill provides that a voter casting an absentee ballot before an absentee voter board in the OCCC or at a satellite office is entitled to receive assistance in casting a ballot if the voter is a voter with disabilities or is unable to read or write English.

Closing of Polls- The bill establishes a procedure at the time for closing the polls or an office where voting is occurring to identify the voters who are voting or waiting to vote and to permit those voters to finish the process of voting. The bill provides that absentee voting in the OCCC's office or at a satellite office may not be closed before the time designated for the end of voting to occur.

Counting of Absentee Ballots- The bill provides that a county election board (CEB) may count absentee ballots cast at the OCCC's office or at a satellite office on a direct record electronic voting system at a central location instead of sending those ballots to the precinct for counting. The bill requires a CEB that counts absentee ballots in this manner to adjust precinct vote totals to reflect the counting of these absentee ballots. The bill provides that a county that counts these absentee ballots in this fashion is not required to count other absentee ballots at a central location.

Effective Date: July 1, 2009.

Explanation of State Expenditures:

Explanation of State Revenues:

Explanation of Local Expenditures: (Revised) *Accessibility Requirements*- Counties could require additional expenditures if accessibility modifications to the clerk's office were necessary. However, compliance would not occur until January 1, 2019. Counties would likely be able to find facilities for satellite offices that meet accessibility requirements.

(Revised) *Counting of Absentee Ballots*- CEB's could save on travel time and expenditure if absentee ballots cast on direct recording electronic (DRE) voting systems did not have to be sent to precincts for counting.

Explanation of Local Revenues:

State Agencies Affected:

Local Agencies Affected: CEB, OCCC.

Information Sources:

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